

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 ACDA-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
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R 110820Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4391
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY WARSAW

C O N F I D E N T I A L SOFIA 0656

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: XH, BU, CZ
SUBJECT: FOOTNOTE ON THE 1968 WARSAW PACT INTERVENTION IN
CZECHOSLOVAKIA

1. EMBASSY HAS RECENTLY LEARNED, ACCORDING TO A BULGARIAN
SOLDIER PARTICIPANT IN THE WARSAW PACT MILITARY INTERVENTION
IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA IN AUGUST 1968, THAT BULGARIAN TROOPS
DESTINED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE OPERATION WERE SENT TO THE
SOVIET UNION APPROXIMATELY ONE MONTH PRIOR TO THE INVASION.
THEY UNDERWENT TRAINING AND PREPARATION IN THE UKRAINE, ABOUT
80 KILOMETERS FROM L'VOV.

2. WHILE IT HAS LONG BEEN KNOWN THAT BULGARIAN TROOPS WERE
SENT VIA THE USSR, EMBASSY IS NOT AWARE IF IT HAS BEEN KNOWN
THAT BULGARIAN FORCES WERE SENT TO USSR THAT LONG BEFORE
INVASION. WHILE WE CANNOT CONFIRM THIS REPORT, WE ASSUME
INFORMATION MAY WELL BE CORRECT, SUBJECT TO IMPRECISION
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AFTER NEARLY TEN YEARS. IF TRUE, IT DOES NOT OF COURSE
MEAN THAT FINAL DECISION ON INVASION HAD BEEN REACHED AS
EARLY AS A FULL MONTH BEFORE THE OPERATION, BUT IT WOULD
SUGGEST AT LEAST CONTINGENCY PLANNING BASED ON SUFFICIENT-
LY HIGH PROBABILITY OF ACTION TO JUSTIFY SUCH TROOP
MOVEMENTS. WITH THAT IN MIND, WE SUBMIT THIS DATUM
FOR POSSIBLE HISTORICAL INTEREST TO ANALYSTS.

GARTHOFF

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NNN

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